

September 16, 1998

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Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street NW
Washington DC 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

To Whom It Concerned:

I won't be able to attend to your 'open meeting' on Thursday, September 17, 1998, at 9:30 a.m. in Room 856. On your agenda, item #6, you will be discussing the Video Programming, and Implementation of Section 305 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 and Video Programming Accessibility (MM Docket No. 95-176).

I'm hearing impaired and an active user of closed captioning devices for my cable and video tapes at home. I am surprised to learned that you are either making exemptions or reducing the requirements of closed caption programs which is unacceptable.

What happened to the Equal Opportunity? There have been great stressed for "Equal Opportunity Employment", but what about "Equal Opportunity for Education / Entertainment"?

Deaf and the Hearing Impaired community are lacking of social and communications skills which they have a major barrier between the deafness and hearing community. Closed captioned programs are not only for the deaf, but people with Spanish/English as well as Reading Literacy problems too. Everyone can learned a great deal from televisions especially understanding of English language, vocabulary, gestures, political, socialism, racism, etc. How are people going to catch-on around the world and people around them when you reduced the closed captioning programs. We cannot be part of the community if we cannot "read/hear" captioned programs on news, financial reports, special issues and other favorite programs.

I cannot expressed enough the importance that if you exempt or reduced the closed captioned programs will also increase isolations and pushed the deaf back into their own silent world. I have made a lot of effort to be part of the hearing community. We all have been frustrated enough to deal with other problems in our life, why make it more difficult for the deaf community? What crime have deaf community done to deserved less captioned program? I'm sure if you have a family member who has serious hearing problem, and being lefted out, wouldn't you try everything in your powers to provide him/her the best with their hearing limitation? I'm sure you do. Think about how many people will be discouraged, frustrated, isolated, etc., especially when you reduced their favorite captioned programs. There are times when I watch some programs, they aren't captioned which I have been very disappointed, especially, when it's a high traffic of viewers watching it!

I mainstreamed since middle school through college years with difficulty, and I have been an honored student. Since there was no ADA law at the time to request a free interpreters in classroom at public schools and college unless I'm in the Special Education Program. ADA was available after I graduated from college. Definitely, there is no "Special Programs" that will challenged and prepared me in a successful job and career in the Aerospace field, and being a role-model and leader in my local deaf community.

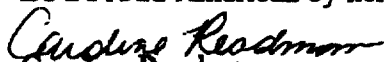
First, I couldn't afford closed captioned device until I was in high school and work to purchased my own caption device. There were very few programs were available to choose at that time until you pass the Telecommunications Act of 1996. Being lefted out is no fun, especially unfair when everyone else can hear the television, or hear the conversation around them. It took an extra concentration and effort to watch my favorite programs without captioned or being in a conversation with a group of people in a large gathering.

I have applauded you for your support in the past, and making the television manufacture to built-in the closed captioned device within the television, and increase of captioned programs. When I go to the restaurants / bar with my family, friends or alone, and they have a television available to the public. I'm also happy to hear they have captioned on their television, and requested them to turn the captioned on. Not only that, a group of deaf community banded together to fund-raise to get closed captioned for one of our local news station. We are proud of such effort, so we can be part of our local community and know what is happening in our area. Just over a year, other local television station, purchased their own captioned program, so they can compete and get viewers to watch their local news!

I'm asking you....Don't exempt or reduced the closed captioning programs, instead, increase them! The more programs available in closed captioned programs, will increase our vocabulary, education, and making us an active participants in the community. Any programs that have a large viewing shows that don't have captions, should warned and should have it captioned or they are subject to be fined and penalized per show unless they provide captioned programs for all audience and viewers. These fines should be monitored by FCC or other agency to police them. These funding should go to education for the deaf, reading literacy program or other grants to promote and increase captioned programs.

We all deserved it!

Be a Proud American by helping other hearing disabled American!


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